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CIA Removing Cloak to Give More Public Scrutiny of Work

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Of The Herald Staff

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is taking the cloak off some of its cloak and dagger operations.

This is what CIA Deputy Inspector General Scott D. Breckinridge, Jr., told members of the Lexington Rotary Club at their Thursday luncheon meeting.

Breckinridge, a University of Kentucky College of Law graduate and a former Lexington lawyer, was speaking on the new U.S. intelligence system. He has been employed by the CIA since 1953 and is a recipient of the agency's Distinguished Service Award.

He said the public should know more within the next two years than it was ever allowed to know in the past about CIA operations. Since the threat of war with the

U.S.S.R. receded at the end of the war in Southeast Asia, he said, the agency has the time to reflect upon its activities and react to public criticism of them.

CIA members will be allowed to make more public speeches about certain details of the agency's operations and more secret documents will be released to the public in the future, he said. But the deputy inspector general gave no indication as to what sort of details would become more readily available.

A major break in the barrier of secrecy that has surrounded the CIA came just recently, when agency members were told they could reveal the fact that they are interested in espionage, Breckinridge said.

"The problem is how far to go without revealing vital secrets. It's a continuing problem in an open society."